

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Claims 1-4, 8, 12, 14-18, 22 and 26 remain in this application. Claim 13 has been previously cancelled. Claims 5-7, 9-11, 19-21, 23-25 and 27-32 have been withdrawn as a result of a restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to present the withdrawn claims in one or more divisional applications.

2. Claims 1-4, 8, 12-18, 22 and 26 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement relating to a deposit requirement for GenBank accessions. Accordingly, as suggested by the Examiner, all references to GenBank accession numbers have been deleted from the claims.

3. Claims 1, 4 and 22 and those claims dependent thereon have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness with respect to the recitation of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of "about" position 24 to "about" 724 of SEQ ID NO: 11. Accordingly, claims 1, 4 and 22 have been amended to omit the offending language. It is believed that the amended claims reflect that "cleavage of a secreted protein is

not entirely uniform" and that additional amino acids may occur at either end. Support for the amendment to the claim may be found on page 14, second paragraph, of the specification.

4. Claims 1-4, 8, 12, 14-18, 22 and 26 have been rejected under 35 USC 101 for lack of utility because no specific function is recited. Accordingly, the claims have been amended to contain functional language which identifies the activity of the polypeptide encoded by the claimed sequence.

The Examiner is thanked for extending the courtesy of telephone interviews to discuss acceptable language in order to overcome the rejections. It is believed that the above amendments address the Examiner's concerns and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. It is thus respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn and that the instant application be allowed to issue. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

November 14, 2003
Date

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* Robin A. McCoomis 11/17/03 *
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